

Francis (S.W.)

PROBABLE
EPITHELIOMA,
CURED BY
ASTRINGENT WASHES.



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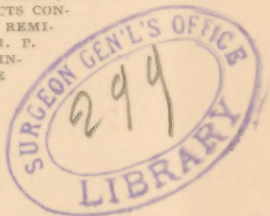
PROBABLE
EPITHELIOMA,
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INTERESTING
Medical and Surgical Cases

IN THE PRACTICE OF

SAMUEL W. FRANCIS, A. M., M. D.,

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PROBABLE EPITHELIOMA, CURED BY ASTRINGENT WASHES. ✓

Read before the Rhode Island State Medical Society, Sept. 20,
1883, and reprinted from their transactions.

The following note from an excellent surgeon whom I have seen operate, with skill, but whose modesty forbids my mentioning his name, explains itself:

My Dear Doctor:

Mrs. E. B. consulted me in regard to her cheek on, or about July 6th. I was uncertain as to diagnosis, but prescribed the removal of the molar tooth which seemed, by its jagged edges, to have been the exciting cause of the disease, and gave a simple mouth-wash. I saw her again, on July 13th, when the inflammatory swelling had somewhat abated, but there remained an indurated area about the ulcerated surface which seemed to me due to cancerous infiltration. The patient came to me again on July 20th. By this time the ulceration and induration had extended considerably, and I felt quite sure that the disease was an epithelioma. This diagnosis having been arrived at, I

explained to the patient my view of her condition, and strongly advised her to let me excise the growth.

The subsequent improvement of the case, without operation, under your skillful treatment, is most instructive to me.

Very truly yours,

September 12, 1883.

To Dr. S. W. Francis.

Dr. Brackett's letter is most interesting and comprehensive.

102 Touro Street,
NEWPORT, R. I., Sept. 6, 1883.

My Dear Dr. Francis:

I must tell you of my great surprise and gratification at the condition in which I have to-day found Mrs. B.'s mouth. It is just two months since she came to me with a very ugly-looking cheek, plainly having, for the exciting cause of the diseased condition, the peculiarly sharp-jagged edge of a buccal cavity of decay in the right inferior second molar. There was at that date, July 6th, in the cheek a rather circumscribed induration as large as an almond, having its mucous surface much eroded by the friction of the sharp edges of the tooth cavity and with considerable diffused irritation all about in

the neighborhood. I at once extracted the offending tooth and waited the result, hoping that with this great local irritant removed there might be resolution, although I had very grave doubts of this on account of the patient's age, forty-five; of the recurrent and rapidly-growing epulis in the front of the upper jaw, and more than from all else of the particularly bad appearance of the inner cheek itself. As time passed after the extraction the growth in the cheek, instead of subsiding, grew rapidly worse. The swelling and induration became greatly increased and extended forward so as to involve the lip and produce very marked external deformity. Several physicians and surgeons of skill and reputation saw the case, and so far as I know it seemed to all as one of carcinoma with most unfavorable prognosis. When I saw the patient on the 19th of August there had been no cessation in the progress of the growth locally and the general systemic condition was becoming impaired. Imagine, then, my surprise and delight at the condition in which I find the mouth today. Seven-eighths of the enlargement and induration are gone, the cheek and lip have become thin and flexible, and all of the angry appearance has vanished. The parts seem on the high road to perfect health and nearly arrived there. There can hardly be a doubt that they will not very shortly become perfectly

normal. I rejoice with you and with the patient upon this most gratifying result of your skillful treatment. Accept my heartiest congratulations and believe me to remain always sincerely yours,

C. A. BRACKETT.

The prescription I used was :

R

Tinct. Opii,	℥ ss.
Tinct. Myrrhæ.	
Glycerine,	aa ʒ j.
Squibbs Liquor Ferri Subsulphatis,	ʒ ss.
Aquæ Rosæ,	ad ʒ iv.

S.

External use.	M.
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Apply one teaspoonful of mixture to inside of affected cheek four times a day.

S. W. F.

Milk diet, with strong broth, and twenty drops of the Syrup of the Iodide of Iron, three times a day, in water.

I have published this case, at the request of members of the profession, in order to impress on the minds of all the necessity of first employing mild measures before resorting to the knife. Most of us who have practiced, have seen how often fingers are cut off; legs and arms amputated;

and tumors excised, when, after experience, with similar cases, has proved that conservative treatment might have saved the limb, &c.

I am not bold enough to claim for my astrigent wash the properties of a specific, for certain forms of cancer, but the speedy arrest of morbid growth, the lessening of size, and finally rapid disappearance of the tumor and diseased surface, most certainly call for a careful test of its merits.

After the cure my friend Dr. J. Marion Sims saw the case and pronounced it "now all right."

